

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-46 (canceled)

Claim 47 (re-presented – formerly dependent claim 31): A system of interconnecting a plurality of virtual private networks, the system comprising:

- a plurality of virtual private networks, each of the virtual private networks having multiple service providers;

- at least one interconnect provider configured to connect the plurality of virtual private networks; and

- a global overseer configured to ensure end-to-end service quality across multiple ones of the plurality of virtual private networks,

- wherein end-to-end service quality across multiple ones of the plurality of virtual private networks includes maintaining the number of multiple service providers below a maximum acceptable number between a first subscriber of one of the plurality of virtual private networks to a second subscriber of another of the plurality of virtual private networks.

Claim 48 (re-presented – formerly dependent claim 37): A system of interconnecting a plurality of virtual private networks, the system comprising:

- a plurality of virtual private networks, each of the virtual private networks having multiple service providers;

- at least one interconnect provider configured to connect the plurality of virtual private networks; and

- a global overseer configured to ensure end-to-end service quality across multiple ones of the plurality of virtual private networks,

- wherein each of the plurality of virtual private networks comprises a program overseer configured to ensure end-to-end service quality across its corresponding virtual private network,

wherein each of the program overseers pays a fee to the global overseer for maintaining the global overseer and the at least one interconnect provider pays a fee to the global overseer for certification.

Claim 49 (re-presented – formerly dependent claim 42): A method of interconnecting at least one interconnect provider between a plurality of virtual private networks to ensure end-to-end service quality across multiple ones of the plurality of virtual private networks, each of the virtual private networks having multiple subscribers, multiple service providers, and at least one exchange point interconnecting the plurality of multiple service providers, the method comprising steps of:

providing at least one interconnect provider disposed between a first set of the multiple service providers in one of the plurality of virtual private networks and a second set of the multiple service providers in a second one of the plurality of virtual private networks; and

providing a global overseer coupled to the at least one interconnect provider, wherein the global overseer is configured to ensure end-to-end service quality across multiple ones of the plurality of virtual private networks,

wherein the at least one interconnect provider is also one of the multiple service providers within at least one of the plurality of virtual private networks.

Claim 50 (re-presented – formerly dependent claim 43): A method of interconnecting at least one interconnect provider between a plurality of virtual private networks to ensure end-to-end service quality across multiple ones of the plurality of virtual private networks, each of the virtual private networks having multiple subscribers, multiple service providers, and at least one exchange point interconnecting the plurality of multiple service providers, the method comprising steps of:

providing at least one interconnect provider disposed between a first set of the multiple service providers in one of the plurality of virtual private networks and a second set of the multiple service providers in a second one of the plurality of virtual private networks;

providing a global overseer coupled to the at least one interconnect provider, wherein the global overseer is configured to ensure end-to-end service quality across multiple ones of the plurality of virtual private networks; and

certifying the at least one interconnect provider by the global overseer.

Claim 51 (re-presented – formerly dependent claim 46): A method of interconnecting at least one interconnect provider between a plurality of virtual private networks to ensure end-to-end service quality across multiple ones of the plurality of virtual private networks, each of the virtual private networks having multiple subscribers, multiple service providers, and at least one exchange point interconnecting the plurality of multiple service providers, the method comprising steps of:

providing at least one interconnect provider disposed between a first set of the multiple service providers in one of the plurality of virtual private networks and a second set of the multiple service providers in a second one of the plurality of virtual private networks; and

providing a global overseer coupled to the at least one interconnect provider, wherein the global overseer is configured to ensure end-to-end service quality across multiple ones of the plurality of virtual private networks,

wherein a maximum number of the multiple service providers between two of the multiple subscribers is two and the maximum number of the multiple service providers and the at least one interconnect provider between subscribers of different ones of the plurality of virtual private networks is three.